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A newsletter of Nature Kenya-The EANHS September 2022

Nature Kenya Committees and Projects Report 2021-2022

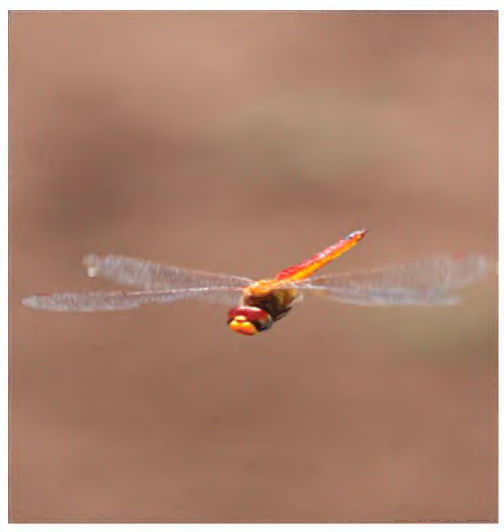
COMMITTEES

INSECT COMMITTEE

Aims to promotes the understanding and conservation of insects and other invertebrates in the country.

2021-2022 highlights

- Free insect identifications with requests spanning East Africa
- Talks on pollinators by Dr. Dino Martins
- Working with volunteers on article series for website & Nature Net
- 200 more copies of the *Pollinator Handbook* acquired and 2 more books published
- Fieldwork for joint project on "Ecology of Invasive Species" with University of Texas ongoing >10,000 downloads of *Our Friends the Pollinators: A Handbook of Pollinator Diversity* from discoverpollinators.org & academia.ed



Globe Skimmer (*Pantala flavescens*)
PHOTO BY DINO MARTINS

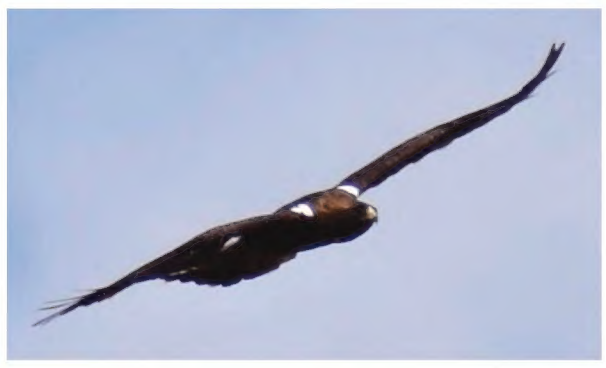
Contact: insects.eanhs@gmail.com

BIRD COMMITTEE

Activities include ornithological advice, publications, taxonomy, bird ringing, records and databases and supporting Nature Kenya's bird walks.

2021-2022 highlights:

- Published *Scopus, Journal of East African Ornithology*, vol. 41(2) & 42(1). 15,640 downloads since Jan. 2021, averaging 1,117 downloads monthly.
- Nairobi Ringing Group continues ringing on a regular basis
- Contributed support for:
  - The African Waterbird Census in January 2022
  - The Ringing of Palearctic migrants at Ngulia Lodge in Nov-Dec 2021
- Zoom meetings held every two months, discussing bird records, conservation and more.



Booted Eagle dark morph. PHOTO BY SAM GUCHU

Contact: birds@naturekenya.org

KENYA BIRD MAP PROJECT

KBM aims to map the current distribution of all of Kenya's bird species and describe their status with valued input from Citizen Scientists.

2021-2022 highlights:

- 21% of Kenya has been covered so far. The biggest gaps remain in the remote northern and eastern parts of Kenya.
- Total records submitted: 456,732
- Observers who have submitted records: 442
- Pentads covered: 1,474
- **Highlight of 2021**: Achieved the greatest increase in the coverage of Western Kenya since the project began. Substantial areas between Mt Elgon and Lake Victoria, and areas of Homa Bay and Migori Counties that were previously blank on the map are now well-coloured.

Contact: kenyabirdmap@naturekenya.org

SUCCULENTA EAST AFRICA

Devoted to growing and learning about succulent plants.

2021-2022 highlights:

- ***Aloe sergoitensis*** (in photo) recognized as unique with double-spines. A unique feature on mainland Africa. The other aloe with a double spine is in Madagascar
- Three newsletters produced and a new editor appointed at the AGM

PHOTO BY MARIA DODDS

- Published "***Aloes in the Garden – an Identity Parade***" (a guide to identifying the 50 aloes commonly seen in Kenya gardens, including 25 aloe species often seen in the wild). Available for sale, including at the Nature Kenya shop, @ KSh 950.
- Working on a book on the Stapeliad plant group, which covers several families of succulent plant species. Succulenta founding member Maria Dodds, who tragically passed away in 2021 aged only 53, worked extensively on the book. It will be part of her legacy.

Contacts: Dee Roberts - kiluma@gmail.com
Bob Entwistle - robertentwistle@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AND POLICY WORKING GROUP (ELPWiG)

2021-2022 highlights:

Provided submissions on :

- **13 County legislations** including on Nyeri County Climate Change Bill 2021, Nairobi City County Plastic Control (Amendment) Bill, 2021, Vihiga County Sustainable Forestry Management and tree growing Policy, 2021-2030, Machakos County Environment Bill 2021, Laikipia County and Community Wildlife Conservancies Bill 2021

- **7 national policies (2 Parliament Bills and 5 Senate Bills)** such as Forest Conservation & Management (Amendment) Bill 2021, The Community Groups Registration Bill 2021, The Cooperative Societies Amendment Senate Bill No. 11 of 2020.
- **13 letters of comments** on Environmental Impact Assessments and notices, including proposed de-gazettement of Turbo Forest Reserve, Intended allocation of Yala Swamp to Lake-Agro Ltd, the Nairobi-Mau Summit Road, and mining of Titanium minerals within Sokoke location, Kilifi County.
- **5 County Budget-making process:** Tana River County Annual Development Plan 2022/2023, Taita Taveta County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2022/2023, etc.

Contact: policyadvocacy@naturekenya.org

KENYA HERPETOFAUNA WORKING GROUP - KHWG

Our mission is to create awareness towards the conservation of amphibians and reptiles.

2021-2022 highlights:

- Kuraiha Waterfront (Juja) rapid survey. A total of 8 species (7 reptiles and 1 amphibian) recorded.
- Kinangop rapid survey. A total of 10 species (8 amphibians and 2 reptiles) recorded.

Puff adder at Kuraiha waterfront. PHOTO BY JOB

Contact: khwginfo@gmail.com /office@naturekenya.org

NATURE KENYA YOUTH COMMITTEE

Its purpose is to engage the youth in conservation activities.

2021-2022 highlights:

- Held a children's Biology programme at the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) in collaboration with NMK and Komp-Green CBO from Korogocho. 46 participated
- Three day camping trip at Oloolua forest, 20 participated
- Clean-up activity at Korogocho
- One day camping trip at Rowallan Scout Camp. 14 participated
- Participated in World Wetlands Day 2022 at Ondiri Swamp; marathon and national event celebration
- Participated in Conservation Education awareness at Maasai Mara University, Narok

Camping at Ololua Forest. PHOTO BY HESBON NYAMBATI

Contact: khwginfo@gmail.com /office@naturekenya.org

PLANT COMMITTEE

Promote interest in plant conservation in Kenya.

2021-2022 highlights:

- Tree walks on the NMK compound are ongoing and will be held on the last Friday of every month.
- Compilation of ***Field Guide to the Plants of Ngong Hills*** in progress
- Participated in mapping of rare, threatened & invasive plant species using E-Citizen science such as **iNaturalist** at Nairobi City Park and in Ngong Hills
- Survey of *Typha spp.* in the Tana River Delta

Mormodica calantha, a new plant record for NMK compound. PHOTO BY PAUL KIRIKA

Contacts: botany@museums.or.ke or office@naturekenya.org
Twitter:@EAHerbarium_NMK

MAMMAL COMMITTEE

Promote conservation and appreciation of Kenya's mammal heritage through citizen science and other forms of public engagement.

2021- 2022 highlights:

- Developed **MAKENYA** mobile app to monitor mammal species in Kenya through Citizen Science.
- Download the App from Google play store
- Held **5 Online Talks**

Contact: mammal@naturekenya.org

SAMAKI WORKING GROUP OF KENYA

Creates awareness and appreciation of fishes of Kenya and promotes fish conservation and sustainable use.

Milestones 2020/2021

- Fishing Excursion at Mbagathi river in Oloolua Forest. Unique fish species sampled: *Amphilius athiensis* and *Enteromius paludinosus*
- Three days fishing expedition at Athi River attended by 13; 9 species were caught
- Virtual talk on Mangroves of Tana Delta
- Live fish exhibition at the National World Wetlands Day event at Ondiri Swamp. Approx. **300 visited**
- Nairobi River clean-up in Kibera, a build-up activity towards World Fish Migration Day 2022

Contacts: davidouma207@gmail.com / info@kenweb.or.ke

HABITAT RESTORATION INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN AFRICA - HARI

Activities: Identification of degraded habitats especially biodiversity hot spots, restoration of the sites and awareness creation.

For updates visit
www.naturekenya.org

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FRONT BANNER
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2021- 2022 highlights:

- Letter to parliament on the Forest Conservation and Management (Amendment) Bill 2021. Concerns: taking away of KFS & CFA powers who jointly protect forests, opening a way to reduce forest land
- City Park Clean-up to commemorate International Day of Forests
- Participated in World Wetlands Day (WWD) marathon at Ondiri Swamp

Contacts: office@naturekenya.org

PROJECTS

FRIENDS OF NAIROBI ARBORETUM – FONA

Maintaining the Arboretum for Recreational, Educational & Scientific knowledge.

2021-2022 Highlights:

- Education activities like tree walks continued but limited by restrictions brought by COVID-19 pandemic
- Guided tree walks for individuals and schools upon request
- Tree labelling programme continued; more than 100 trees labelled
- The number of visitors to the Arboretum were not affected by pandemic
- One kilometre of footpath and a new ablution block worth Ksh12M sponsored by Radisson Blu Hotel Arboretum.
- The drilling of a borehole was completed and now the Arboretum is connected to a constant supply of clean water

Contact: fona@naturekenya.org or
education@nairobiarboretum.org

FRIENDS OF CITY PARK

Committed to protecting and restoring City Park.

2021-2022 highlights

- Spearheaded the formation of City Park Community Forest Association (CFA) and are helping in developing the Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP)
- Completed registration as an Association to better participate in park rehabilitation activities and in the CFA
- Finalized design of City Park fishpond with Kenya Horticultural Society and other stakeholders. Restoration to start soon.
- Participated in UN@50 Celebrations at City Park including presenting the proposed master-plan and ceremonial tree planting
- Implementing a small-scale water quality improvement project at City Park in partnership with Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) under the 'Realizing Urban Nature-Based Solutions' initiative.

Award presentation to Ms Vivian Njoki (third left), the City Park fishpond design winner. PHOTO BY JOHN MWACHARO

www.friendsofcitypark.org Focp.rafiki @cityparkfriends
0713130005 cityparkfriends@naturekenya.org

NAIROBI BIODIVERSITY PARK

2021-2022 Highlights:

- Working with Nairobi National Park management to study and conserve the rare plants on the hillside in the northern corner of the park.

Commelina purpurea. PHOTO BY HEATHER ELKINS

Contact: fleur@africaonline.co.ke

PARTNER

TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

An international NGO that puts people at the heart of conservation, giving them the skills and support they need to be effective on the ground.

2021-2022 highlights

- **Hosted 7 online courses for 203 beneficiaries** on scientific writing, women in conservation and decolonizing fieldwork, among others
- Trained **26 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** and **49 staff** working in East Melanesia Islands
- **Ran first fee paying online courses** on designing conservation projects and measuring impacts; 21 individuals trained
- **Trained 45 West African CSOs** under Guinean West Africa hotspot program; 3 master classes, 270 CSO staff benefitted; 5 CSO mentoring sessions and 2 regional workshops for 72 delegates.

JOURNAL OF EAST AFRICAN NATURAL HISTORY

2021-2022 highlights

- Vol 110 Part 1 and Part 2 (2021) published
- Format changed from B5 to A4
- Available online (only) via BioOne and African Journals Online (Open Access)
- Income from BioOne in 2021 was US$ 8,639
- Total income since we joined BioOne in 2007 = > $ 107,426

Contact: Bytebier@ukzn.ac.za or office@naturekenya.org

THE JOINT EANHS-NMK LIBRARY

2021-2022 highlights

- Major step taken towards digitization with NK's purchase of computers
- Improved access to NK's publications with:
- – Enhanced distribution to NMK centers
- – Establishment of a Nature Conservation Section to underscore environmental issues
- Improved access to information with:
- – Searchable online database featuring issues emerging in newspapers
- – Improved efficiency by circulating hyperlinks instead of full text articles

Contact: library@museums.or.ke

Birding Updates

Wednesday Morning Birdwalks in Nairobi
Please observe Covid-19 protocols as needed: wear or bring masks and meet at designated venues.

7th September – Museum Grounds/ Michuki Memorial Park. Meet at 8 am in the open space in front of the entrance to the museum galleries.

14th September – Karen Blixen Museum. Meet at 8.30am in the Museum's Car Park area. Directions: Coming from the city centre, take Ngong Road towards Karen. Turn left at Shell Petrol Station onto Karen Road. The Museum is about 1.5Kms after Karen Country Club.

21st September – Manguo Pond, Limuru. Meet at 8.30am at Manguo Pond. Directions: Coming from the City Centre, take Nairobi – Nakuru Highway. Turn right a few metres after Limuru Bridge towards the wetland.

28th September – Paradise Lost. Meet at Paradise Lost Main Gate at 8:30 am. Directions: Turn Left at Paradise Lost junction in Thindigua after Runda Greens before Quick Mart Supermarket along Kiambu Road. Turn right at Kencom Apartments just after Kasarini Primary School. It's about 500m to the main gate. Thanks to the management for welcoming the birdwalk.

18th September. Sunday Bird Watch – Oloolua Nature Trail, Institute of Primate Research, Karen. Meet at 8.30am in the Nature Trail's main entrance. Directions: Coming from the city centre, take Ngong Road towards Karen. Turn left at Shell Petrol Station onto Karen Road. The Nature Trail is about 500m after Karen Blixen Museum. There is an entrance fee of Ksh. 100 per adult and Ksh. 50 per child for Nature Kenya members (bring your membership card – soft or hard copy).

If you have questions, please write < news@naturekenya.org> or phone 0780-149200.

Bird Ringing at Nairobi National Museum grounds usually take place on Tuesday mornings. Please confirm with Titus Imboma <lmbomati911@gmail.com> Phone 0721-649452.

Thursday Birdwalks in Malindi

1st September – Malindi Harbor. Meet at 4:00 pm at the Malindi Museum near Nature Kenya Office.

8th September – Mtangani via Light Academy. Meet at 4:00 pm at the Malindi Museum near Nature Kenya Office.

15th September – Malindi Airport. Meet at 3:30 pm at the Malindi Airport Gate (Bring an ID card)

22nd September – Buntwani. Meet at 8:00 am at the Malindi Museum near Nature Kenya Office. NOTE: this is a morning outing.

29th September – Moi Village to Sabaki Bridge. Meet at 4:00 pm at the Malindi Museum near Nature Kenya Office

24th September. Saturday Bird Watch - Gedi Museum. Meet at the Gedi Gate at 7:00 am

For more information, email: <malindimembers@naturekenya.org > or phone 0725 223042.

Mombasa Birdwalks are held the 3rd Saturday of each month. To check meeting time and place, check Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFJmombasa/>

Or contact: Taibali Hamzali <thamzali@gmail.com> / 0733-980540

or Kelvin Mazera <klvnrua@yahoo.com> / 0720-928783

OCTOBER BIG DAY

Mark your calendars for another opportunity to celebrate birds on **October Big Day – Saturday 8th October, 2022.**

Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far. By taking part in **October Big Day** you're also joining the celebration of **World Migratory Bird Day**. Be a part of the global team, and help set a new record for birding. You can bird from home and still participate in **October Big Day!**

In order to coordinate the birding effort in Kenya, if you plan to take part on 8th October, 2022, please send your name, contacts and birding location to **Richard Kipngeno** at <**news@naturekenya.org**> or to **Pete Steward** on WhatsApp **+44 7473 957279**.

September Skies

BY FLEUR NG'WENO

Planets, Sept '22
Bright Jupiter rises in the east soon after sunset, and is in the sky all night, traveling westwards with the stars. (It's really our Earth that spins towards the east.) Golden Saturn rises earlier; it's high above during the evening, and sets in the west before dawn. The waxing gibbous moon is near Saturn on Sept 8; the just-past full moon is near Jupiter on Sept 11 and 12.

Mars rises in the east near midnight and is overhead at dawn, brightening as its orbit brings it nearer to Earth. In the first half of September, the "red planet" seems to be near the red star Aldebaran in the constellation of Taurus the Bull. The last-quarter moon is near Mars on Sept 17.

Brilliant Venus is low over the eastern horizon at dawn, fading into the glare of the sunrise in late September. Little Mercury is in the western sky after sunset. It sinks rapidly, reappearing in the eastern sky above the sunrise at month's end.

September Stars
The fishhook shape of the constellation Scorpius, the Scorpion, moves towards the southwest. With binoculars, you can see several star clusters near the Scorpion's tail and stinger. To the south (left) of the Scorpion is the constellation Sagittarius, the Archer of the ancient Greeks. The stars in part of Sagittarius seem to form the shape of a teapot, or a basket with handles. The moon is near Antares, the Scorpion's fiery eye, on Sept 3 and 30, and near Nunki in Sagittarius on Sept 5.

The bright star Altair is high in the northeast. Two stars, northwest and southeast of Altair, seem to escort it in the sky. North of Altair, lower in the sky, is the brilliant white star Vega. To the east (right) of Vega is the bright star Deneb. Altair, Deneb and Vega form a giant triangle in the northern sky.

On a clear, dark night, look carefully in the sky northeast of Altair. You may see a group of five stars, like a kite with a string. Can you imagine these stars as the little constellation of Delphinus, the leaping dolphin?

If you are up before dawn, look towards the east, below the bright planet Mars, for the constellation that the ancient Greeks called Orion, the Hunter or Warrior. To us on the equator, Orion seems to be lying down. The bright star Rigel – Orion's knee – is high, kicking into the sky. The orange star Betelgeuse – Orion's left shoulder – is lower, on the other side of the three-star "belt".

The two brightest stars in the night sky shine across the southeastern sky in the morning: Sirius, the brightest, below Orion; and Canopus, second brightest, to the right, in the south.

Moon Sept '22
Sept 3, first quarter (half-lit moon overhead at sunset). Sept 10, full moon, rising in the east at sunset. Sept 17, last quarter (half-lit moon overhead at dawn). Sept 25, new moon.

Sun, Sept '22
The equinox ¬– when day and night are of equal length, all over the world – is Sept 23 this year. For the next six months, the sun will be in the southern part of the sky. And here on the equator, the sun seems to both rise earlier and set earlier (compared to the clock) in Sept-Oct-Nov.

Yes! Start my **Nature**Kenya membership

Surname _____
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MEMBERSHIP TYPES
Ksh Per Year

Full	2,000
Sponsor	6,000
Family	2,800
Student	1,200
Schools, Clubs	1,500
Corporates	20,000 -30,000

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- Confirm details & press OK

For details on associated groups such as Youth Committee, Succulenta, and Friends of Nairobi Arboretum, City Park or Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, contact office@naturekenya.org